

The Six Characteristics of a Civilization:

1. A regular food supply that is not likely to suddenly change.
2. Different social levels, in which some members of the society are given higher status than others.
3. A system of government that directs and controls some actions of the members of society.
4. A religious system, which might include priests and temples.
5. A highly developed culture including art, architecture, music, literature, science, writing and other complex technologies.
6. Specialization of labor, in which members of the society perform different jobs.

Each of these relates to the *social*, *political* and *cultural* systems that make up a civilization.

- social – from the Latin socius or companion – being in the company of others, how people are organized
- political – from the Greek polis or city – having to do with running a city (typically the government)
- cultural – from the Latin cultura or cultivate – to develop a way to express one's self or live one's life; attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs shared by a group of people → usually a way of life or expression of self